

MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
THURSDAY 11TH NOVEMBER 2021

Present: Via Remote Attendance
Councillors:
P Murphy (Chair)
P Dalton
K Evans
G Foxall
K Haddow
M John
AM Spooner
K Swift

In attendance: L McKeon, Clerk to the Council

M3903 APOLOGIES

Councillor B Counsell – Council accepted his apologies due to illness.

M3904 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Councillor P Murphy	All planning applications	Member of MCC Planning Committee
Councillor P Murphy	Caerwent Community Centre	Trustee
Councillor K Evans	Caerwent Historic Trust	Trustee
Councillor M John	Woodlands Tavern	Member of Save the Woodlands Committee
Councillor P Dalton	Caerwent Football Club	Football Coach

M3905 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

M3906 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 14th OCTOBER 2021

To note that these had been agreed remotely for accuracy and posted on the Council website

Council noted.

M3907 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

M3908 POLICE REPORT

To note We Don't Buy Crime initiative

Agreed to request a presentation.

M3909 PLANNING

To consider any planning applications received following despatch of the agenda.

There were no planning applications.

Council noted thank you letter from a resident at Five Lanes regarding Council's latest decision on amended planning application 2021/00738 at Land North West Of Holly Lodge, Five Lanes. Clerk will advise him of the procedures should he wish to speak at a future Planning Committee meeting.

To note monthly enforcement list from MCC

Council noted

M3910 REMEMBRANCE SERVICE – SUNDAY 14TH NOVEMBER

To note arrangements made by Clerk

Council noted.

M3911 COMMUNITY SURVEY

To receive any verbal report from the Working Group

There was no progress on this to report. Councillor Murphy will be undertaking a survey separately re the election but will pass on any relevant information.

M3912 CAERWENT COMMUNITY CENTRE

To consider the contents of the recent survey and make any recommendations

The Clerk advised that recommended works amounted to £27,500 over the next five years. Agreed that this would all probably be covered within the lease document to the Caerwent Community Centre Committee. The Chair advised that the Committee will be looking for grants to cover most of this work, especially future Section 106 funding.

He informed the meeting that the new flooring is down, a fire door has been repaired and the shower room is now a store room. MonLife will be using it as a facility soon.

M3913 KEEP WALES TIDY

To consider Caru Cymru initiative to eradicate litter and waste and if any of these schemes would be appropriate for our area

Councillor Swift had discussed this with Councillor Spooner. She informed the Council that there is a lot of media material on the Keep Wales Tidy website which we could use as an educational resource.

She intended to look into and possibly implement the Leave Only Paws scheme in Crick.

Other schemes such as Adopt a Highway and the Dog Fouling Campaign were discussed. Council noted that litter picking is currently being undertaken already by individual residents but it could be beneficial to coordinate these efforts. Council resolved to contact one of the litter pickers to enquire if he would be prepared to explore this with us and possibly take a lead role to try to engage other members of the community to help out.

M3914 CAERWENT PLAYING FIELDS

Working Group to report on condition of edging surrounding the field and make any recommendations

The group had met up on 7th November for a site visit. They recommended that rather than replacing the edging it would be more appropriate to remove any dangerous parts and then allow for a natural edge, rather than a forced one. Council agreed. The Chair had in the meantime contacted MCC to request advice and a quote.

M3915 PLAY AREA QUOTES (Caerwent Playing Fields)

To consider:

To replace rotten timber on wooden walk beam - £193 installed

To replace chains and worn shackles on swings - £165.34 installed

Council agreed.

M3916 WOODLANDS TAVERN, LLANVAIR DISCOED

To consider whether to support the application to the Community Ownership Fund from the Save the Woodlands Committee to save, purchase and maintain the Woodlands as a community asset.

Council noted proposal which had been circulated. The Chair advised that MCC would be happy to support this but there is the question of pre-determination regarding any planning applications on the building. Councillor Evans agreed that the same situation applies to the Community Council and all Councillors should be impartial in considering any current planning applications on the building.

Councillor John advised that with any successful bid the monies must be spent within six months but you are able to defer. The scheme is open for the next four years but the group may well apply this December.

Council resolved that at this present time they cannot support the grant application due to the fact that the planning application has not yet been determined. However following the outcome of this, due consideration will be given to supporting the group's application for a grant. Council agreed to make enquiries as to when the amended planning application will be determined by MCC.

M3917 TO RECEIVE REPORTS

CLERK'S REPORT

Play Areas

Old seesaw removed, new seesaw still on order.
Post for Llanfair Discoed still on order.

Overhanging Branches – Toilets

Councillor Beattie had removed all overhanging branches and vegetation. The Chair had arranged for MCC to remove this.

Caerwent Meadows had confirmed that they are not interested in the timber for their field.

Waste Bin, Cadw Barns

No further progress.

Phone Box, Highmoor Hill

A proposal had been received today from the Highmoor Hill residents asking if the Council would consider transferring/assigning an agreement to a Residents Association which they will set up for this purpose which will assume responsibility for maintaining the box at their expense. Such an arrangement would remove all responsibility for the telephone box from the Council. This commitment is subject to the Council agreeing to the telephone box remaining in its present location and withdrawing the consent previously given to Caerwent Playing Fields Association to remove and resite it to the Playing Fields.

The Clerk had written to BT to enquire if the box can indeed be transferred – they had confirmed that it can be provided that it is not to another telecoms provider. They advised that we would need to draft our own agreement. All they would require are contact details in case of emergencies. Council agreed that this reply appeared to contradict the ownership rules and the Clerk was asked to query this.

Council noted that the land is MCC owned and any proposed works, eg steps, would have to be approved by them.

Council agreed that it would be preferable to retain ownership but provide the new group with a maintenance licence which also indicates that we can take it back at any time in the future if we feel it necessary due to lack of maintenance. A sign should be provided indicating our ownership.

Recycling Proposal for Caerwent Playing Fields

No progress.

Defibrillator, Coach & Horses

Councillor Haddow met with electrician and Landlady re exact location. The Clerk advised that this will be moved w/c 15th November.

School Bus Pick Up/Drop Offs (Crick)

Councillor Swift has received assurances from MCC that their buses will only use the main stops in Crick.

Regarding the Wyedean bus which comes under a different authority, this Council has written to the bus company raising our concerns and asking them to consider their route considering they are dropping off on a clearway outside the Nursing Home. Councillor Swift had advised that Wyedean School are writing to parents expressing their concerns.

Footpaths Working Group

Councillors Swift and Spooner had prepared a brief note which had been circulated setting out their initial aims and next steps for the group. There is a government deadline of 2026 for identifying any historical rights of way – after that if they are not on the official records they will be lost. They propose that members of the public must be involved to identify the footpaths as there are 137 walks in total. Some walks overlap with other Community Councils, eg Crick into Mathern. They propose liaising with The Ramblers, U3A, Women of Wentwood Walking Group, dog walking groups etc and advertising to see if anyone can help. Need to identify if any walks are not on the definitive statement and if they are not we need to get them registered.

Planning Application 2021/01304 Penylan Farm, St Brides Road, St Brides Netherwent - Excavation of dirty water pond adjacent to existing

Still awaiting any responses arising from the Landscape Officer's concerns.

Time Capsules, War Memorial

Councillor Swift has spoken with the paving contractor and he has offered to fit the two plaques free of charge. Councillor Evans will be ordering the plaques.

Steps Cottage, Caerwent

Reported as Unsightly Land to Head of Planning. Passed to Enforcement.

'Crick' Signage

Suggested new signage to Highways Manager.

Paws on Patrol

Hayley Brown, Community Police Support Officer, will be aiding us with this. It will come under the umbrella of Neighbourhood Watch which we will have to join which means it will fit in with their insurances/funding opportunities (should we want merchandise) and for advice and support on running the initiative. The police will be able to support events that are run as part of the Paws on Patrol scheme and can

provide ongoing support and advice around crime prevention in the wider context, reporting, intel etc as and when needed. Advised that we nominate a neighbourhood watch representative to be the main contact.

Inappropriate parking at garage on A48 Crick and Ash Tree Road

Police will monitor the areas but have asked if this could be reported to them immediately as it happens.

Car Donuting, Crick

Police will monitor the areas but have asked if this could be reported to them immediately as it happens.

Crick Bus Stop

A member of the Crick volunteer group has tidied up this area which involved removing previously cut green material. Confirmed that plants were seeded into the gravel rather than growing up through the membrane. Plants at the front had been growing in a strip of bare earth in front of gravel board. Suggested that a strip of earth be removed and replaced with concrete and wooden gravel board replaced with concrete edging. The stone walls behind the bus shelter in need of some repair – Councillor Swift will make enquires regarding ownership of this.

Football Club proposed alterations to Village Hall

Awaiting amended plans from Football Club.

Finance Committee

Meeting arranged for Monday 29th November.

Chepstow School Bus

Reported the inappropriate disposal of masks by children exiting the bus. School Safety Manager looking into this.

(Councillor Beattie joined the meeting).

He updated the Council on the tree/vegetation clearance at the toilets that he had carried out and advised that a branch was growing in the centre and over the roof so removal was very pertinent.

Caerwent Community Centre

Thank you received from Chair for recent Community Council funding re survey and flooring.

Highways Updates

Brickwork on road narrowing (westgate) – under review.

Reminded MCC about signage for Roman Road and Llanvair Discoed.

SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

Deceased dog on A48 – residents removed to vets.

Information exchange

CAERWENT MEADOWS REPORT

Council noted.

PLAY AREAS INSPECTION REPORT

Council noted.

M3918 FINANCE

To consider balances/payments and approval as per finance schedule dated November 2021

Community Account	£8,137.23	
Moneymaster Account	£12,123.05	
Petty Cash	£230.93	
Clerk's Salary, Allowances, Mileage (32)		as per NALC scales
Inland Revenue		£216.01
Torfaen Pension Fund	(employee)	£58.59
	(employer)	£197.10
Information Commission (data protection fee)		£35.00
British Gas		£26.85
Aardvarc Cleaning		£266.00
M Beattie (plants)		£58.59
Microsoft 365 Business		£11.28
CPFA (Christmas Parties - CPFA)		£400.00
Christmas Lunches (Caerwent Church)		£100.00
Merlin Environmental Services		£406.25
S Roderick (bus stops/shelters clearing)		£52.30
S Roderick (inspections)		£51.52
MCC (annual grass cutting/play inspection contract)		£3078.69

M3919 CORRESPONDENCE

MoD – notice of noisy activity

Caerwent Baptist Chapel query re new premises or extension

Mons Citizens Advice Bureaux statistical information

Chief Officer (People & Governance) MCC – Boundary Changes – online event tbc.

The Chair explained the actual changes to our boundary where we will

have an increase of 43 houses.

MCC – climate change training

M3920 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

To note any verbal reports

There were no reports

M3921 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY

Councillors to report any issues

There were no issues to report

M3922 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Councillors to inform the Clerk

Chair Date